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Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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Supplement to the *Tasmanian Naturalist*

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club is devoted to the study of all forms of Natural History, and is comprised of both experts and beginners. We cover a wide variety of topics, and we support conservation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, except January, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania from 7.45 p.m. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the main entrance to the Museum, Macquarie Street.

The Club's address is GPO Box 68A, Hobart, 7001 and the club contact is Don Hird (34 4293).

Programme

- Thurs. 5 Nov. 7.45p.m.: Peter Brown from Parks and Wildlife will talk to us about Swift Parrots.
- Sat. 14 Nov. 10 a.m.: This outing coincides with the active breeding of the Swift Parrots. Our outing may be to Bruny Island, Fern Tree or more probably on a private property at Bream Creek south of Orford, near Hell Fire Bluff. The outing venue will be determined by the breeding activities of the Swift Parrot. Note this outing is a week later than usual.
- Thurs. 3 Dec. 7.45p.m.: David Ziegler will speak to us on Tasmanian orchids. David is a project officer for Parks and Wildlife presently working on the *Atlas of Tasmania Orchids* which entails species descriptions, distribution maps, habitat requirements, conservation status and a taxonomic update.
- Sat. 5 Dec. 9 a.m.: David will lead us on an orchid hunt to Southport.
- Thurs. 4 Feb. 7.45p.m.: Steve Harris who is a botanist with Parks and Wildlife will talk on Furneaux Island Flora.
- Sat. 6 Feb. 10 a.m.: The next best thing to a Furneaux Island trip is an outing to the east coast. Steve will lead an excursion to view the Oyster Bay pines.

New Members A special welcome to our new members Mrs Janice Nixon, Dr Bob and Mrs Jean Manary, Mr David Steane, Mr Guy and Mrs Betty Ellis. Dr David Ratowsky, our former president, has also re-joined after returning to Tasmanian from a spell in the USA. A special welcome back David.

Change of Address Helen Davidson has moved recently to unit 2/13 Windsor Street, Kingston Beach, 7050, phone 29 5882.

Unfinancial members We have checked our records to identify unfinancial members. If you have a yellow highlight on this item, this will be your last contact with the Club unless you pay your dues: adults \$17, concession \$13 and families \$20. If you believe you have paid ring Gilbert van Munster on 29 6602.

Public Lectures The November committee meeting plans to review the issue of future public lectures, taking into account the costs and benefits to the Club. The committee would welcome input from members. Phone Don Hird on 34 4293 (H) or 21 5912 (W) if you have an opinion or have any suggestion for a future speaker at a public lecture.

The first public lecture by David Lang in February 1991 cost the Club about \$100 for an advertisement in the *Mercury*. David is an orchid expert from the UK who was touring Tasmania to photograph and collect our orchids for Key in London. He presents lectures in

the UK, which we knew were of high quality. Through the local amateur orchid network we learned of his visit and hosted him for a few days in return for the public lecture.

The second public lecture last August was an initiative by the Club. We invited Mike Cusack, and paid for a return air fare from Melbourne plus an honorarium of \$100. The total cost to the Club was about \$450 including an advertisement in the *Mercury*. We had offered accommodation to Mike Cusack for the weekend, but at the last moment he declined to stay.

The direct costs of the public lectures can be seen, but what of the benefits? There are two main benefits. One is to gain publicity for the Club, and implicitly its aims. Through this publicity we hope to attract new members and general interest in the Club. A Club needs a constant supply of new members and their ideas if it is not to decline. The second benefit is to satisfy the existing members by providing special entertainment occasionally. A further benefit for the organiser is the possibility of additional time spent with the guest speaker.

A non-monetary cost is the time required to organise a public lecture. There are several tasks. The speaker has to be contacted, publicity material obtained and audio-visual requirements confirmed. The venue has caused a major hassle for both public lectures so far, as it has been double booked. (On both occasions we have persuaded the other booking to move out.) Organising publicity is the largest and most difficult job. We usually advertise in the *Mercury*, and put posters up in various places. We arrange community announcements in the press and on radio. We also try to organise interviews for the speaker on radio and by the *Mercury*.

Federation of Field Naturalists Clubs of Tasmania Our first meeting as office bearers for the Federation was held at Mr Bert Farquhar's Shearing Quarters, Miegunyah, near Gladstone on 18–20 September 1992. (That's in the far north-east of the State, where Bert Farquhar is easily the largest private land owner in the State.) The weather for the weekend was fine. On Saturday Bert Farquhar talked briefly about the property and invited guests to assist with planting some *Acacia sophoraea* seed on an unstable sand-dune. Lunch was taken at the interesting heathland reserve at Petal Point, where a couple of interesting orchids were found in flower. After dinner, which was provided by the ladies of Gladstone at the local town hall, we went on a two-hour drive spotlighting many native animals on the property Miegunyah. We could easily believe that Bert Farquhar had 100 000 wombats to go with his 50 000 sheep. He also has numerous eastern quolls, pademelons, and even forester kangaroos.

On Sunday morning the business meeting was over in an hour with Phil Collier in the chair. We then drove to a forestry area where several more orchids were found, and then on to Tomahawk for a windy lunch on the beach, before viewing the heathland.

The best find of the weekend was a specimen of *Pterostylis vittata*, a greenhood orchid not previously recorded from mainland Tasmania. Unfortunately the flowers were dead.

Mammal Survey Group welcomes visitors and new mammal surveyors and your observations (in writing please). Unless otherwise stated, please contact Don Hird, ph 34 4293 (H), 21 5912 (W), to confirm details of the outings close to the outing date.

Mammal Survey Group Programme

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| 21–22 November | Collinsvale area. Details at the November meeting or from Tony Conlan, ph 47 6081. |
| 19–20 December | Mt Wellington plateau area. Details at the December meeting. |
| 23–24 January 1993 | Lake Crescent area. Revisiting the sugar glider habitat from the April Club outing. Overnight camping/hut. Details and map at the December meeting. |
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